

CLAIMS

1. A server for connecting to equipment to be monitored, the server having an
5 internet protocol address and comprising a database for receiving and storing data from
the equipment and a feed for feeding data from the database to remote applications
addressing the server.
2. A server according to claim 1 wherein the feed is updated upon occurrence of
10 events reported to the server from the equipment.
3. A server according to claim 1 wherein the feed is updated from the database at
regular report intervals.
- 15 4. A server according to claim 1 further comprising an active server page file or
active components that interrogate(s) the database to create a dynamic file that is
accessible from the remote applications.
5. A server according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the feed
20 comprises an extensible mark-up language (XML) file containing item tags and wherein
the data to be fed to remote applications is inserted into the item tags.
6. A server according to claim 5, wherein the XML file is structured as a Rich Site
Summary (RSS) feed.
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7. A server according to claim 5, wherein each item tag has a title part, a link part
and a description part.
8. A server according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the server has a plurality
30 of feedfiles, each containing data received and stored from the equipment and each
having a different filename, whereby users can access different feeds from the same

address using the different file names, whereby a user can select information to be viewed by appropriate file name selection.

9. A server according to claim 8 comprising a tool to enable different feedfiles with
5 different file names to be structured differently and/or to accept and deliver different data according to user requirements.

10. A manufacturing plant comprising a plurality of devices, each having sensing means for sensing a parameter, and a server in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9
10 connected to the sensing means for receiving and storing data from the sensing means and delivering it via the feed to the remote applications.

11. A manufacturing plant according to claim 9, wherein the parameters are selected from: flow parameters, temperature, pressure, alarms, status, chemical sensor
15 parameters, time, vibration, noise and electrical parameters.

12. A computer for remote monitoring of equipment, the computer having a network connection for connecting to a server connected to equipment to be monitored and having a news display application for displaying items fed to the computer by a news
20 feed, wherein the news display application stores an address of the server as its source of items to be displayed and has means for performing a look-up of items from the server at regular read intervals.

13. A computer according to claim 12, wherein the read intervals are settable by a
25 user of the computer.

14. A computer according to claim 12 or 13, further comprising a filter for filtering data received from the server and means, in the news display application, for selecting portions of all data received from the server for display.

15. A computer according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the news display application operates to cause sequential items to be displayed while the computer is active without separate selection by the user.

5 16. An equipment monitoring system comprising a server according to any one of claims 1 to 8 in combination with a computer according to any one of claims 12 to 15 connected to the server via an intranet or the Internet.

10 17. A method of operation of a server connected to equipment to be monitored, where the server has an internet protocol address and a database for receiving and storing data from the equipment, the method comprising generating a feedfile containing reports of parameters being monitored in the equipment and storing the feedfile on the server in a manner such that it can be read by a remote application addressing the server.

15 18. A computer program product comprising instructions and data which, when loaded onto a server having an internet protocol address and a database for receiving and storing data from equipment being monitored, cause the server to generate a feedfile containing reports of parameters being monitored in the equipment and to store the
20 feedfile in a manner such that it can be read by a remote application addressing the server.

19. A method of operation of a computer for remote monitoring of equipment, comprising providing a network connection for connecting to a server connected to the
25 equipment to be monitored, providing a news display application for displaying items fed to the computer by a news feed, storing, in association with the news display application, an address of the server as its source of items to be displayed and performing a look-up of items from the server at regular read intervals.

30 20. A computer program product comprising instructions and data which, when loaded onto a computer having a network connection for connecting to a server connected to equipment to be monitored, cause the computer to:

execute a news display application;
uniquely address a feedfile located at an address identifying the server;
perform a feedfile look-up from the server at regular read intervals; and
display items fed to the computer by the news display application in combination with
5 the feedfile.